

Annual Report 2025-2026

Year in Review

1st AMT Graduating Class

Our first graduating class of the FAA Certified Part 147 Aviation Maintenance Technician school graduated in August, 2026. Following this initial cohort of twelve students are twenty-five new students for the upcoming class.



The school is a partnership between Wicomico County and the State of Maryland, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Piedmont / American Airlines.

Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the Airframe and Power Plant exam. Successful completion of the exam earns the student A&P credentials, a highly valued and recognized credential in the aviation industry.

Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport

SWED created new advertising (currently display at SBY) and a vision of development at the Airport Industrial Park, a nearly two-hundred-acre tract located on the grounds of SBY.



Year in Review

Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport

Breeze Airways expanded it's Orlando service and added a new, nonstop flight to Fort Lauderdale.



Site Readiness

Shovel-ready sites address permitting requirements upfront and allows us to better compete for larger-scale economic development projects.



SWED was successful this past year in applying for a receiving a \$200,000 MEDCO Site Improvement Grant for early development work at the Salisbury-Wicomico Regional Airport's Industrial Park (SBY). Total funding to date through the MEDCO program is \$650,000.

In addition to site readiness initiatives at SBY, SWED partnered with Westwood Development LLC to create two shovel-ready parcels in Westwood Commerce Park. Each parcel has utilities in-place, capacity to accommodate development and acreage to construct two, two-hundred thousand square foot facilities.



Year in Review

Industry News

Both Amazon and St. John Properties completed more than \$60 million worth of new construction this past year. Amazon officially opened its distribution center in August, 2026. The company anticipates locating one hundred thirty-five jobs at the facility.



In partnership with the Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore, the Rural Maryland Council and BEACON at Salisbury University, SWED contracted for a study of the Port of Salisbury's economic impact on our community. The study found the total impact to be \$225 million annually, accounting for 600 jobs.



We continued our long-standing practice of calling on resident businesses, inclusive of those firms with offices outside of Wicomico's jurisdictional border. Calling on our existing customers allows us to better understand the needs of our business community and to tailor programs and services to meet those needs. At the same time, we recognize that attrition will occur and attraction of new businesses and jobs to our community is an important component to our program.

Year in Review

SWED

Public speaking engagements enhance collaboration among many partners throughout our region. We were pleased to present at this year's Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce' Economic Forecast event, Hebron Savings Bank, the Fruitland Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Club at SU.

More than one hundred people attended our annual meeting and heard presentations on the theme 'Transportation as an Economic Catalyst'.



SWED's 57th Annual Meeting at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Ctr.

Our Strategy Forward

Our strategy for the coming year is to capitalize on our assets, develop intentional innovative programs to target job growth and work collaboratively with our many partners for the betterment of all.

Targeted Economic Sectors

Agribusiness, Health Care
Higher Education, Manufacturing
Aviation & Aeronautics
Distribution

Infrastructure Investments

Entrepreneurship

Industry Diversification

Strengthened Partnerships



2025 Annual Meeting



2025 Annual Meeting



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James McNaughton
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Chris Davis
Farmers Bank of Willards

Brian Murfree
Tele-Wire

Chris Perdue
Perdue Agribusiness

Bill Chambers
Salisbury Area Chamber

Elizabeth Justis
Keller Construction

Maria Waller
Quality Staffing Services

Mark Welsh
UHY

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Avery W. Hall Insurance



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